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The Iguana



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Caminata shows unity between nations

By 1st Lt. Kim Garbett
Public Affairs

The scent of sunscreen and oranges wafted in the morning air. A crowd of about 100 people stared mesmerized as the UH-60 Blackhawk hovered over the soccer fields 9 a.m. Nov. 9, inserting five U.S. military commanders from Soto Cano utilizing the Special Patrol Infiltration/Exfiltration System (SPIES).

The Colonels' Foot March, a combined walk hosted biannually by the Joint Task Force-Bravo commander, commenced with this spectacular opening scene. The musical strains of "Ride of the Valkyries" added to the pomp and circumstance of this multinational event.

The "Caminata de los Coroneles" or "La Caminata" as it more commonly referred to, is designed to "be a good chance for fellowship with our Honduran guests," said COL Michael Wood, JTF-B commander. Caminata comes from the Spanish word meaning "a walk."

"Coroneles" from all over Honduras came to participate, as well as defense attaché personnel, MILGROUP staff, and the commanders and staff directors from Soto Cano. As the motley group of military personnel from two different nations began to walk the 5.3-mile course around the perimeter, the sweat began to pour.

"The advantage to hosting this Caminata," said Wood, "is that it's not only enhancing the camaraderie between the United States and Honduras, but it also gives the key military leaders in-country a chance to talk about things we would-



Photo by SPC Jeremy Heckler

COL Michael Wood leads the pack during the Caminata de los Coroneles or Colonel's walk held Nov. 9

n't normally have a chance to talk about. The Caminata is also a great opportunity to repay the Hondurans for hosting us in their country."

As the marchers marched on, representatives from DYNCORP, MEDEL and JSF were out and about providing assistance along the course. Water, other beverages and oranges were plentiful along the way as the sun beat steadily from a blue sky.

Among the many key military leaders present at the Caminata was COL Lopez-Carballo, Chief of Staff of the Honduran military.

"Events like these (are wonderful) because they unite the Armed Forces of the United States and Honduras," said Lopez-Carballo.

He added that the Caminata is an excellent way to combine the physical and mental preparation into one event, both necessary elements to military readiness and morale. It is symbolic of strengthening physical and mental ties, as well as ties between the two countries.

Lopez-Carballo mentioned that he is

See Caminata, Page 8



Photo by Master Sgt. Pat McKenna

The feet of Coroneles and Soto Cano's leaders pounded five miles around the perimeter of Soto Cano Air Base.

Commanders' Corner**Reflections on Thanksgiving, upcoming holidays****By COL Michael Wood***Joint Task Force-Bravo commander*

We are entering the holiday season and I wanted to take some time to share some thoughts with you. First, I want to wish all of you and your families at home the happiest of holidays as we approach Thanksgiving and the Christmas Holidays. Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays because, like the 4th of July, it is uniquely American. Not only do I enjoy the fall season and the change in weather (when we are back home!), but I also like that Thanksgiving is not as commercialized as most of the other holidays. It truly does bring friends and families together in fellowship and to enjoy our traditional meal. We want to make that day special here in Soto Cano. I hope all of you take advantage of the great meal that the Dining Facility will put on that day. Of course, I want to remind you that things kick-off into high gear the night prior when the Army faces Air Force in the Turkey Bowl. Come out and

support your team. It is guaranteed to be a great event.

Secondly, I ask that each of you reflect on the many blessings that as a nation, Americans, members of this great Task Force, and as individuals we should be grateful for and appreciate. I am grateful for all the great things our nation represents and I believe people are more aware of these when they are serving overseas. Even with all the recent confusion and concerns resulting from the election count, our nation will work through it. To me, it shows how strong, albeit not perfect, our democracy is.

I also like that we give thanks the same month that we remember our veterans. By commemorating Veteran's Day, we are in fact thanking those who, like each and every one of you, serve or have served our nation and especially those who have given their lives. The recent tragedy on the USS Cole brings this home to me. You should all know that our nation is grateful for your service and sacrifices as you fulfill your duty in one of our nation's most honorable professions.

The last thing I want to talk about is to tell you how

thankful I am for the privilege to command again and especially to do so and serve in this outstanding Joint Task Force. I want to express my most sincere appreciation and admiration to each of you for your dedicated service, commitment, professionalism, and sacrifices. I am entering into my fifth month in command (it is going by too quickly) and I could not be prouder of the accomplishments of Joint Task Force-Bravo and of the soldiers, airmen, Marines, and civilians that make us what we are—a superb organization in word and deed.

As we enter into 2001, the mission of JTF-B will continue to be critical to the engagement strategy of the Commander in Chief, USSOUTHCOM, and each of you are a key part of it. Please think safety in all that you do—both here, when deployed and during your time off. Again, I wish each of you and your families a very joyful holiday season and I look forward to the New Year and the many challenges and accomplishments that we will experience together. Progress Through Unity!

Being a good American ambassador**By MAJ Darwin Concon***Civil Affairs*

Sometime in 1965, I was with my mother visiting family in the city of Manila, the Philippines. During the course of our stay, my mother took me to Jose Rizal National Park. Being a young, curious and adventurous child of 6 in an exotic faraway city, I quickly became enamored with what I was seeing around me.

While wandering around viewing the sights, I noticed my mother was nowhere around me. I started looking for her and became even more lost in my frantic search. That was when I felt the firm hand of an American soldier,

wearing khakis. He put his hand on my shoulder and asked me if I was okay. I told him I could not find my mother. He stayed with me and started walking me toward the center of the park. Shortly thereafter, my mother found us and profusely thanked the American soldier for watching over me.

The kindness and concern of that soldier have stayed with me all my life and greatly influenced me to also become an American soldier: the current civil affairs officer of Soto Cano. As soldiers, airmen and Marines, we have a commitment to become good ambassadors of our country.

The way we present ourselves in public and how we treat other people have a profound effect on the future of

United States and host nation relationships. This includes respecting their culture and religious beliefs. We always hear of the bad things caused by a few troublemakers, which, unfortunately, also makes a lasting effect in the memories of people.

However a little bit of kindness or concern has an even bigger effect since that young child viewing a K-9 presentation on our post, listening to funny stories from our firemen and seeing Americans helping their community and families recover from a natural disaster can pay big dividends in the future. That child could grow up to be one of the future leaders of whatever host nation you are stationed in. Be a good ambassador.

Chaplain's Corner**What does it mean to you?****By Chaplain (CPT) Arleigh vonSeggern***JTF-Bravo Chaplain*

What are you thankful for? Perhaps with Thanksgiving coming up soon, you may be asking yourself the same thing. This becomes a good occasion for us to think about this. We may think of our home, our families, parents, spouse, children, maybe the simple things we take for granted that we are doing without right now.

In my life, Nov. 17 is a very special day because it is my wife's birthday. I thank the Lord for my wife as I remember his words, "What therefore God has joined together..."

This day may not mean a lot to you, but I am sure you think of your spouse's birthday, or that of one of your parents, or even a close friend with the same thought I had.

It is one thing to remember this special day, but how do I recognize it? I would like to take her and our daughter out for

supper, but here I am in Honduras and she is in the Philippines. I can't call, because there are no telephones in her hometown.

What I can do is put my thoughts and feelings down on paper and send them with a special card to hold on to. I can send to her the promise that we will celebrate her special day when I come home.

Those are the things that I plan on doing. Now, what about you and your loved ones? I encourage you to do something for them while you are here to let them know they are not forgotten and show them how much you do care about them.

How about all those things you are thankful for? What are you doing to show your appreciation to the Lord for what he has done? Or are you even appreciative?

There is no way we can pay the Lord back for all he has done, but I do encourage you to remember to thank him for all his goodness to you.

The Iguana

EDITORIAL STAFF
JTF-Bravo Commander
 COL Michael Wood

Public Affairs Director
 1st Lt. Kim Garbett

Superintendent
 Master Sgt. Patrick McKenna

Editor
 SPC Jeremy Heckler

Photo technician
 Martin Chahin

E-mail: pao@jtfb-emh1.army.mil

Website:
<http://www.southcom.mil/home/jtf-bravo>

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That's your opinion

What are you thankful for?

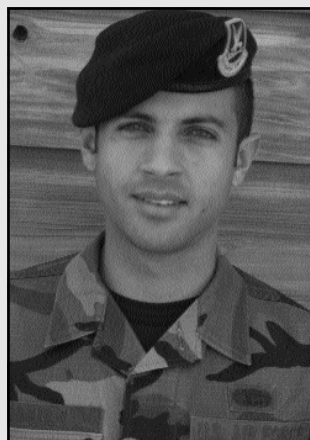


"I'm thankful for my wife and kids. My wife just had a boy two days before I came here. I'm also thankful for the courageous Marines that I'm here with."

Sgt. Ramon Rivera
JSF

"I'm thankful for my wife and the opportunity that the Air Force has given me to see this beautiful country."

Senior Airman Alex Angulo
JSF



"I'm thankful that I'm still alive. My family doesn't really celebrate Thanksgiving but I am thankful that I am in America, alive and living a good life"

PFC Zuhair Elkhoja
SJA



"I'm thankful for my family, especially my Mom who is back home taking care of my son."

MAJ Joelle Rankins
Intelligence



Commandant addresses Marines, honors of Corps family on birthday

By Gen. J. L. Jones
Marine Corps Commandant

Today, around the world, in gatherings large and small, Marines will assemble, as they have for two hundred and twenty-five years, to honor both our history and the memory of those who have preceded us. It is fitting that we do so, for it is our profound respect for our traditions and reverence of our heritage that distinguishes us as a Corps of Marines. This year is especially meaningful. Fifty years ago, the free nations of the world united to stem aggression in Korea; twenty-five years ago, the long war in Vietnam drew to a close; and a short decade ago, America and her allies liberated Kuwait. The thread linking these disparate conflicts is the Corps itself, and our performance on these distant battlefields added new definition to our character while cementing our privileged place in the hearts of our countrymen.

Just as the valor of Marines on the battlefields of Korea, Vietnam, and Kuwait contributed uniquely to our legacy, so, too, does our actions today. We continue to write our history, whether conducting critical operations in the international spotlight or diligently attending to the equally important, but unheralded work

of taking care of Marines and their families. We are, in fact, stewards of past, present, and future. We, therefore, must remain mindful that our actions today-guided by the lessons of yesterday-will determine the fate of the Corps tomorrow.

As the Corps — family in the truest sense of the word — pauses to celebrate our two hundred and twenty-fifth birthday, it is proper that we take great pride in who we are and the work we do. We are

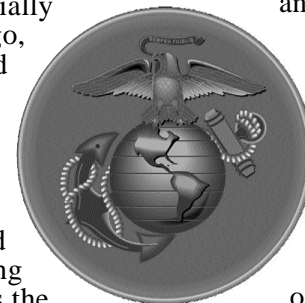
United States Marines and for two and a quarter centuries we have

defined the standards of courage, esprit, and military prowess. On this occasion, we should also remember that a grateful Nation cherishes our service and joins us in celebration.

The spirit of the Marines of Korea, Vietnam, and Kuwait still animates those who wear the eagle, globe, and anchor today. Their voices and those of all our predecessors join in a familiar chorus and exhort us to uphold our standards and honor our legacy.

This we will do, for we have learned well the lessons of our past and know that there is no substitute for vigilance, strength, and resolve. Our Nation and the Marines of tomorrow can depend on that commitment.

Happy Birthday, Marines!



Editorial

Thanksgiving more than just a day off

By SPC Jeremy Heckler
Iguana Editor

Thanksgiving is the time of year when many people think of turkey with all of the trimmings, pies of every flavor, and football. For others it begins the gift-buying season. Still, there is more to it than just food and a couple of days off. It is a time to reflect and give thanks for all the things that we have been given.

Looking around Honduras, one can see how well we have it. Each one of us has our own problems and setbacks, but one trip outside the fences of Soto Cano and nothing compares to the hardship that these people face. At most posts, one would never see vendors peddling up and down the streets near stoplights selling anything and everything to survive. Anyone who has traveled to one of the many Honduran orphanages knows what we have to be thankful for.

Thanksgiving is also the beginning of the holiday season. For many it is a time set aside for buying Christmas presents or wondering what presents are lurking for them. A group of Marines on post are carrying the Christ-

mas spirit that they brought from their homes in the spirit of Toys for Tots. Staff Sgt. Thomas Ballentine, Cpl. Lisa Graham and other Marines have collected boxes of toys for the kids of Bactiblico de Santidad.

Many others have contributed to the needs of others through the Combined Federal Campaign program. Still others invest their time in helping out at the local orphanages sponsored by various units here on base.

These people and many others remember the true meaning of the holidays. The holidays are for fellowship and helping out their fellow man. We must remember that when the last present is opened and the last piece of Christmas dinner is eaten, that the meaning of the holidays should not be stored away with the Christmas decorations. The brotherhood of man does not just last for a month and a half. It is something that everyone should practice every single day.

So as Soto Cano kicks off Thanksgiving, we all should reflect on the true meaning of the holidays. We should be thankful for all of our blessings and help out those who are less fortunate in any way we can.

Nov. 17, 2000

JTF-Bravo

Fighting fiery enemies using airborne Bambi buckets

By 1st Lt. Kim Garbett
Public Affairs

The cattle scattered. The lake water swirled from the center toward the outer edges of the water source. The trees bent heavily in the high winds suddenly being created. The helicopter blades hummed steadily as the aircraft lowered the Bambi Bucket, dipping it into the lake. They were out on a mission: aerial firefighting.

The rainy season in Honduras has almost worn itself out for this year as the dry season kicks itself into full gear. Water becomes a precious resource. The chance of a fire breaking out at any time and any place in Honduras increases.

No one likes when a fire occurs unexpectedly, be it a forest fire, residential, firing range or rural fire. Fires are notorious enemies known for their destructive capabilities, annihilating wildlife and threatening homes and lives.

Within the last 30 years, firefighting techniques have diversified. In addition to ground firefighters, often times it may become necessary to employ both military and civilian helicopters or fixed wing aircraft. Aerial firefighting is now a worldwide method used to combat out-of-control or hard-to-reach fires.

Members of the 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment regularly train with UH-60 Blackhawks and CH-47 Chinooks as independent firefighting vehicles if called upon to react to a fire. These aircraft reconfigure themselves by attaching a large bucket to be suspended from the bottom of the aircraft. Today, the world's most powerful and efficient bucket system is known as the Bambi Bucket system.

The Bambi Buckets used by Alpha and Bravo companies here are capable of holding up to 2,000 gallons of water, said SSG Bill Cagle, flight engineer and standards NCO 1-228th, Bravo Company.

"The bucket is fairly effective when deployed correctly," said Cagle. In his experience with aerial firefighting in various parts of the world, he said he believes the Bambi Bucket has about 85 to 90 percent success rate so long as training is done well and the pattern is flown correctly.

"The most challenging aspect of aerial firefighting is deploying the water exactly where you want it," he continued. "There are so many variables that come into play when fighting a fire of great magnitude, such as wind, heat from the fire that can affect aircraft perform-



Photo by 1st Lt. Kim Garbett

A CH-47 loads up its "Bambi bucket" with water during a training exercise. Bambi buckets are used to support fire suppression missions in areas that cannot be reached by firefighting vehicles.

ance, decreased visibility due to smoke... Terrain is a huge factor in this all."

Cagle said that mountains are the toughest terrain to perform Bambi Bucket assistance during fires.

The primary reason for deployment of the bucket is in isolated or remote locations where no fire truck can reach, which often means that the nearest water source can be rather far away and that the terrain is fairly rugged.

Cagle said he's flown missions where the nearest water source was approximately two hours from the fire. Sometimes, he said, it is possible to use up that water source and then another must be located rapidly to continue the firefight.

When flying a Bambi Bucket from a helicopter, the aircraft is normally about 50 feet above the ground and traveling at about 35 miles per hour for the most effective deployment of water to the target, Cagle men-

tioned.

"This is not a one-man job," Cagle said. "You need a balanced and trained crew. It is missions like these (aerial firefighting) that crew coordination is especially critical. And normally, by the time the mission is complete, you all wind up smelling like smoke or burnt something-or-other when you're finished (flying so close to the fire)."

Members of 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment have assisted with fighting fires all over Honduras. Recently the battalion deployed to the Bay Islands where a CH-47 Chinook deployed to Utila, supporting fire containment operations there.

The rapid response capabilities of the battalion's members and well-disciplined military organization have contributed to effective containment of fires that could otherwise have ravaged the Honduran countryside and its people.

Preventive Medicine

Stray animals may carry danger of spreading rabies

By SGT James Barclay
Preventive Medicine

Rabies, if left untreated, is fatal. Every year there are over one million reports of animals biting humans in the United States. Many cases involve serious injury and a few even end in fatalities. Animal bites are very common in Honduras as well. They are much more serious because rabies is prevalent in this country. An average of three to five cases of human rabies are reported each year in Honduras.

Taking a few precautions can help to keep you from becoming a bite victim.

The simplest and easiest prevention is

avoidance. Do not go near stray dogs and cats. Injured and sick animals are far more dangerous. They are also the most likely carriers of rabies.

Stray animals only stray into areas where they can find food. Do not feed stray animals. Feeding strays only makes the problem worse. Trash should be placed in the appropriate receptacles and the doors to the trash sites should be securely shut behind you.

If someone happens to be bitten, take note of the animal's appearance - size, color, and markings.

Do not attempt to capture the animal unless it is safe to do so. Someone else becoming another bite victim will not help. If possible, leave someone to watch

the animal and track its movement and contact Dyncorp.

Wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water for at least five minutes. Report to the emergency room for medical treatment and have a search initiated for the animal.

All biting animals must be placed under quarantine for rabies observation. Any cat or dog that is in the transmissible stage will show symptoms of rabies within ten days.

If the animal cannot be located, then the Rabies Advisory Board at the Medical Element may elect to start the patient on immunizations against the rabies virus.

All dogs and cats maintained here at

Soto Cano must be vaccinated against the rabies virus on an annual basis. Animals on orders as unit mascot are vaccinated by Veterinary Services.

All other pet owners must go to an off-base animal clinic and have their pets vaccinated. It will only cost a few dollars and it is definitely worth the cost to protect your pet and maybe yourself from a very serious illness. Any animals returning to the United States must have a health certificate.

The best prevention against animal bites is to avoid stray animals or unknown animals.

Notify Veterinary Services at ext. 4198, if you find any sick or injured animals.

Protecting Soto Cano**Joint Security Forces silent protectors of Soto Cano****By SPC Jeremy Heckler**
Iguana Editor

They patrol the airfield and other vital areas 24-hours a day. Many work while others celebrate their holidays and special moments.

Joint Security Forces, each and everyday protect Soto Cano's residents and equipment. Three shifts perform a variety of tasks designed to keep people and safe.

Three shifts work throughout the day and night. They meet up in the base armory where they are briefed on all that is going on and what is expected of them on that shift.

The shift goes from 9:30 p.m. until 6:30 a.m. It is also the shift where more crimes are committed.

"Bad guys like the cover of darkness," said Tech Sgt. Keith Wynn, NCO in charge of the midnight shift.

Twice each night, Wynn takes to the perimeter of the base checking to see if someone has cut into the fence line or climbed over it and onto Soto Cano. Passing down the length of fence line there are many places where patches from have been cut into the fence.

"It is not that much different here than at any other base... We deal more with local authorities but we operate here just like we would at any overseas base."

--Tech Sgt. Keith Wynn
JSF Shift commander

Members of JSF are also positioned at key areas where the best thing is a quiet night.

"There is a lot of time to yourself out here and you have to be prepared," said Lance Cpl. Jack Petty, who drew the ammunition supply post. Using electronic surveillance, Petty checks all those who enter and exit the facility as well as preventing intruders.

"It is quiet and very peaceful out here, compared to some of the other posts. It gives me a lot of time to keep up with my military knowledge," said Petty.

The two-person crew on the flight line also generally have a quiet night.

Down at the main gate is where most of the action is. Each and every trooper and

civilian on base passes through the sentry on call.

"We count Joint Task Force-Bravo personnel and vehicles and perform checks on DynCorp's people as well as curfew violators," said Lance Cpl. John Heinrich. He said that anything could happen on this shift, such as one night where there was almost a fight between a taxi driver and someone who didn't have enough money to pay for the ride.

"Everybody wants to be on the mid shift, because you've got all day to get things done and there is a lot more action at night," said Heinrich.

Out there among the hootches is the foot patrol who make sure that hootches, exchange and other areas are protected. The person on foot patrol is in touch with the people of Soto Cano.

"We are the liaison members with the troops here because we can interact more with them," said Cpl. James Ebert.

Ebert added that while he's out on patrol he tries to build a rapport with those he meets so they will be comfortable to talk with him and other JSF members.

A foot patrol of another sort also patrols Soto Cano, the K9 patrol. The two handlers and their dogs are on call 24-hours a day, sniffing out anything unusual.

For JSF, what they do is standard procedure at any post or base around the world.

"It is not that much different here than at any other base," said Wynn. "We deal



Photos by SPC Jeremy Heckler

Staff Sgt. J. D. Mascolo and his K9 partner Moed patrol the perimeter of Soto Cano. JSF is on call 24-hours a day to keep personnel and property safe.

more with local authorities but we operate here just like we would at any overseas base."

One patrol is a joint patrol with the La Guardia, the Honduran security force on Soto Cano. JSF personnel also work actively with Honduran units whenever an incident occurs on base. Recently JSF personnel in conjunction with local police prevented a break-in at the power plant on base.

JSF also relies on everyone's help.

"We rely a lot on the neighborhood watch, usually if they see someone out of place or snooping around they call us," said Wynn.

Troop Spot light**Senior Airman**
Stephen Crandall

Age: 26
Hometown: Miami, Fla.
Unit: AFFOR
Section: Fire Department
Duty Title: Fire Protection Driver/Operator
MOS/AFSC: 3E751

Most significant accomplishment: When I will receive my college diploma.

Goals: To finish my Air Force enlistment and reenroll in college to acquire a degree in fire science.

Hobbies: Basketball, football, going to the movies, music, and dancing.

Favorite Book: The Rainmaker by John Grisham

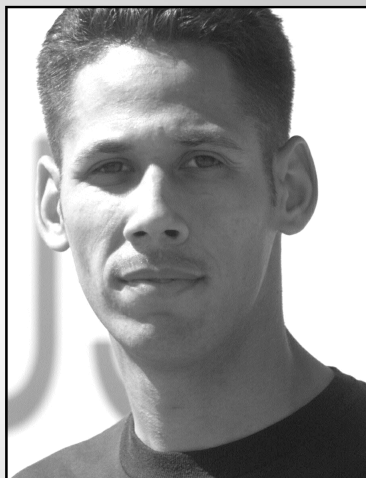
Favorite Movie: The Matrix

Favorite CD: Big Run- "Capital Punishment"

Family: Stephen G. Crandall Sr. (father)

Supervisor's comment: Senior Airman Crandall is the type of individual who always gets the job done and always steps up to help others with their tasks and training.

When did you enlist and why? I wanted to see the world, experience the military and support myself by serving in the United States Air Force.

**Preventive Medicine guidelines for clean drinking water on base****By CPT Gordon Peters**
Preventive Medicine

The water quality on Soto Cano Air Base is potable, which means safe to drink without fear of contamination. Preventive Medicine's Environmental Health section and DYNCORP conducts weekly bacteriology analysis of the bases water supplies. The airbase is about 18 to 19 years old and a large amount of the pipes that were installed when the base was constructed are still in use. Due to the age and make-up of the water pipes on Soto Cano Air Base, the Installation Medical Authority has made the following recommendations concerning tap water.

* Majority of the airbase's faucets are mixing faucets so turn on the hot water first for about one minute and then change to the cold water and let it run for two additional minutes before consuming tap water.

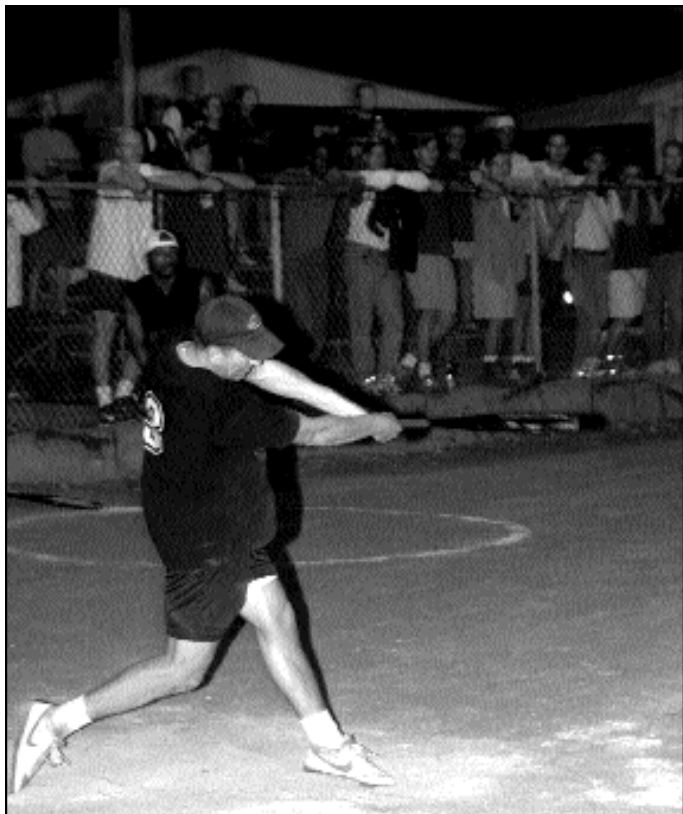
* When using the water coolers in the

billets, Preventive Medicine recommends that every week the water be changed and the tank and cooler be cleaned and sanitized with a bleach and water solution. The bleach and water solution should be one part bleach and 10 parts water, (one cup bleach and two cups water). Place the bleach solution in the bottle and the holding tank. Let the solution run through the cooler's nozzle to sanitize the enter workings of the tank. Then put a gallon of water in the tank and flush the holding tank and nozzle to remove the bleach residual.

* Preventive Medicine is the first step to continued good health and should be practiced at all times.

* Please conserve water as on average personnel here use three times the average consumption per person in the States. Each day, Soto Cano averaged 180 gallons of water per person.

For any questions, the point of contact is SGT Tony D. Hemphill, NCOIC, Preventive Medicine Environmental Health, ext. 4200.



Photos by SPC Jeremy Heckler

A member of the 1-228th Winged Warriors launches a pitch into the Soto Cano night. The Warriors downed AFFOR "B" 26-15.

Warriors grounds AFFOR “B” team 26-15

By SPC Jeremy Heckler
Iguana Editor

The Winged Warriors of 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment kept their hopes for the base softball championship alive by pounding the AFFOR "B" team 26-15 at the Soto Cano Air Base softball field.

The Warriors won their way into the losers bracket's quarterfinals by downing the Fire Dawgs in the game played moments before they faced AFFOR.

The Warriors' big bats took the wood to the ball in the first inning. Reinaldo Mendez led off the game with a hit. A sacrifice fly and another single put men on first and third for Andrew Bice. Bice connected on an AFFOR pitch, scoring the first runs of the game, David Prymula's triple and a Josh York single digging the Air Force into a 4-0 hole.

AFFOR chipped away at the lead in their half of the inning

The second inning was where the Warriors broke it open. The Warriors got a couple of hits early in the inning. AFFOR pitching loaded the bases. Mike Siler scored two on a bloop single into right field. Tyrone Cunningham then stepped up and deposited one over the center field fence.

“The pitch was slightly inside and kind of low and I just turned on it,” said Cunningham, who had three hits in the game.

The Warriors were up 15-1 by the end of the inning.

The airmen got two runs back, capitalizing on a 228th three-base error. A sacrifice fly cut the lead to 12.

The airmen continued to strike back, but each AF-
FOR big inning was followed by an even bigger War-
riors inning.

“They jumped us early and we waited too late,” said Joseph McIntyre, AFFOR coach. “We allowed them a lot of easy runs and we just didn’t do our part.”

AFFOR tried for some last-inning heroics. As the clock was winding down on the game the airmen scored seven runs, capitalizing on Warrior relief pitching and some poor defensive plays. The team stormed the field after the final out.

"We had a pretty good comeback but it was just too little, too late," said McIntyre.

For the winners, the road is paved with a potential triple-header for the championship. They must defeat the AFFOR "A" team and down the undefeated team from the J-Staff twice in order to seal the championship.

“In any tournament, the loser’s bracket is the hardest to win,” said Marty Martin, coach of 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment. “You need to win back to back on several nights but if we stay focused and don’t get too high after a win and play solid defense, we have a good shot at it.”

J-Staff earns title game berth, holds off AFFOR "A" team 12-11

By SPC Jeremy Heckler
Iguana Editor

The J-Staff earned its way into the base softball championship game by holding off the AFFOR “A” team 12-11 at the softball field.

The win kept the J-Staff undefeated in the tournament and dropped AFFOR to the loser's bracket.

The J-Staff surged to an early five-run lead by playing smart. They scored their first two runs off a sacrifice fly and a single. Then Richard Jessup cranked a two-run homerun into the Honduran night.

"It was a good pitch and I felt I could go yard with it," said Jessup.

In the AFFOR half of the first, the team scored one run on a triple but were bit by a little bad luck. A ball, hit through the middle, hit second base and was speared by the shortstop, Jessup, who threw out the runner.

The J-Staff expanded their lead in the second, scoring three runs. Thomas Regen helped his own cause with an inside-the park home-run.

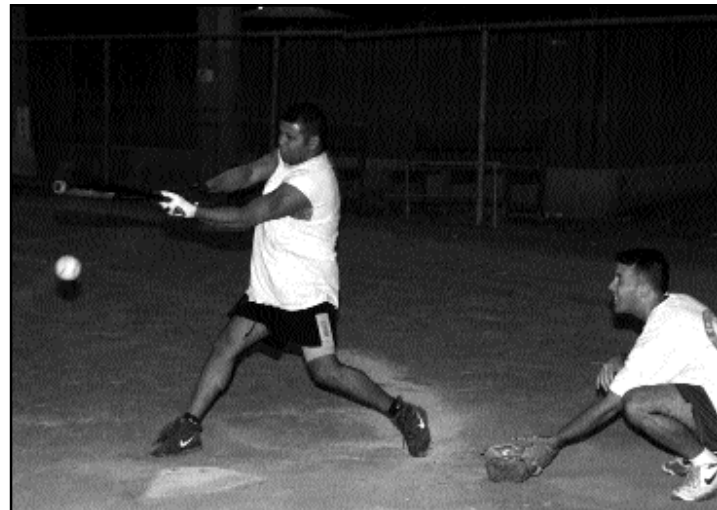
Gerald Harris kept things going in the third inning with a three-run home run, opening a nine-run cushion on the AFFOR.

AFFOR started their comeback in the bottom of the fourth. The airmen hustled on balls hit to the outfield with doubles and triples, cutting the lead to two.

The J-Staff added an insurance run in the top of the final inning that would seal the game. In the bottom half of the inning, mental mistakes and some inconsistent pitching walked in a run to close the game.

“They opened the door for us but we couldn’t close it,” said Jeff Cooper of AFFOR.

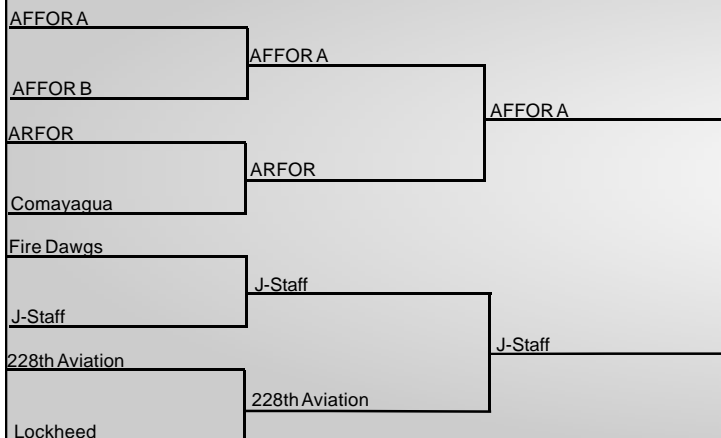
“It’s all about the team,” said Jessup. “We’re feeding off the team and playing together.”



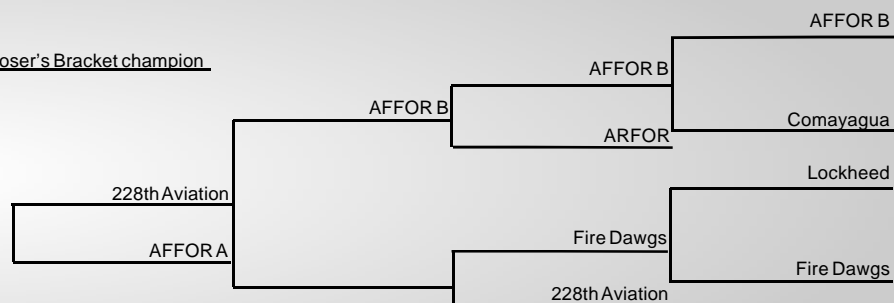
A member of AFFOR "A" swings and misses in a game versus the J-Staff. The J-Staff pulled out the 12-11 win.

2000 Soto Cano Softball Tournament

Winner's Bracket



Loser's Bracket



Nothing but Net: Joint Task Force-Bravo's top NCO all aflutter over collecting rare butterflies

By Master Sgt. Pat McKenna
Public Affairs

Command Sergeant Major Herman C. Fisher is a hard-core airborne ranger, who is no stranger to jumping out of military aircraft and humping a ruck on grueling 20-mile foot marches. And when it's time to unlace his combat boots at the end of the day, Fisher plays as hard as he soldiers. So how does this grizzled Army NCO spend his R&R time? Martial arts, maybe? Weightlifting? Bungee jumping? Billiards or bowling, perhaps?

Nope, none of the above.

When the mission is complete, his weapon placed on "safe" and official military matters put to bed, Fisher likes nothing better than slipping on a pair of comfortable shoes and chasing after pretty butterflies.

Disappointed? Well, if you think butterfly hunting is for wusses, think again. The task force's top NCO asked me to join him on one of a recent safari, and trying to keep up with the 43-year-old infantryman as he sprinted through Comayagua's backwoods was a challenge.

Before even launching on our expedition, two of our native gun bearers and guides refused to enter the dense Honduran jungle and quit the party, warning us of the fabled "Mariposa Diablo" — the demon butterfly. Unfortunately, their worst fears came true and a cloud of highly venomous butterflies with razor-sharp wings attacked our party.

Well, maybe that's a slight exaggeration, but by the end of the day, I was miserable. I slogged along most of the morning with pants and boots sopping wet after falling into a stream. I sported raised, red welts on both of my hands where fire ants ravaged me after tripping over barbed wire and falling face first into a seething mound, and every remaining inch of exposed skin on my body stung from sunburn.

Fisher, on the other hand, seemed no worse for wear. The Chicago native began stalking the wild and woolly butterfly about four months ago after he saw a display of the winged insects in the office of Peter Nebel, an environmental contractor on Soto Cano, and coincidentally, in charge of the base's pest control.

Butterflies are about the only insects humans don't squash on sight. The creatures are like stained glass on wing — a kaleidoscope of color and motion. And they neither sting nor bite. So that's probably why you don't see too many "butterfly swatters" or "butterfly motels."

Nebel took Fisher on a couple of butterfly hunting jaunts into Comayagua, and the sergeant major has been hooked ever since.

"It's relaxing, and it's a time for me to think and learn," said the command sergeant major. "For me, it's become habit forming. I'll never look at another butterfly the same way."

Fisher now regrets not picking up his hobby earlier. He's pulled tours in Korea, Japan, Germany and Hawaii. The latter is a lepidopterist's paradise. "Hawaii has such a unique ecosystem. Who knows how large my collection would be by now. But you live, learn and hopefully remember," Fisher said.

While on the islands, the command sergeant major spent much of his time in the wood shop, and, when he's not butterfly hunting, you may find him at Soto Cano's. He's a master jewelry box builder, and has made several display cases for his butterfly hobby out of Hawaiian koa and Honduran mahogany.

"Most of my hobbies got started trying to get my troops interested in something worthwhile, and then I've really gotten into them," he said. "I wanted to show the folks in my command what opportunities are available to them. That's why I've hung one of my butterfly displays in my office — so people will see it and it'll pique their interest."

And Fisher has no shortage of hobbies. He's an avid runner, who has competed in more than a half-dozen marathons and who coached JTF-Bravo's Army 10-Miler team last month. He's an amateur photographer, he writes and he's a jigsaw puzzle fanatic.

"Hobbies challenge your mind, and help you stop thinking about how homesick you are," said Fisher, who, with his wife, Phyllis, have two children, son SPC Eric Fisher, stationed in Korea, and daughter Leathia, who lives in Wisconsin.

The command sergeant major said his family doesn't quite know how to take his new pastime, and he's gotten some strange looks from base folks too.

"You know I don't mind that people make jokes. 'Oh, look at the command

sergeant major,' they say, 'mincing around like a little garden gnome,' but I'm the one who is laughing. Leaping and laughing all the way to the bank," Fisher said.

The collection hanging in Fisher's office is worth at least \$500 back home. And don't believe the saying, "Butterflies are free." They aren't free if Command Sergeant Major Fisher has anything to say about it.

Fisher's got a bounty on the head of any butterfly captured — dead or alive — in the territory. He hasn't yet nailed "wanted posters" to telephone poles, but it's an option. The command sergeant major has a standing offer to pay a \$1 to anyone bringing him a butterfly or moth he doesn't already have in his hands. For a trophy catch, he'll pay up to \$5.

Currently, Fisher has hoarded more than 250 butterflies and moths. But he still wants more. His current quest is for Sloane's Urania Moth. It's Fisher's Everest. "I'd really like to get my hand's on that joker," he said.

In case of emergencies, the command sergeant major keeps a butterfly net "locked and loaded" and strategically positioned by his hooch's front door. And if Army "regs" would allow it, Fisher might have a mind to mount a gun rack on his EZ-Go so he'd have someplace to hang his trusty net. "You never know when you'll run across a species you don't have," he said. "You've got to be prepared at all times to bring one down."

The command sergeant major has made a policy of not killing any butterfly or moth he doesn't intend to keep. "Some

people don't enjoy butterfly hunting because they can't bring themselves to crush their thorax," he said. "Killing things isn't for everyone."

Fisher did offer these pointers for would-be butterfly wranglers —

- If you see one butterfly, you'll see another. They have flight patterns just like aircraft.
- Usually you only have one swipe at a butterfly, so a good, fast backhand is essential.
- Butterflies take the path of least resistance. So if you stand very still in the middle of a path, a butterfly might fly straight toward you.
- The best time to catch butterflies is when they're mating.

Says Fisher: "When they mate, they're frolicking around and really not paying a whole lot of attention to what's going on around them. That's the best time to sneak up on them."

Doesn't sound too sporting, does it? You're just getting your groove on, and then **BAM! lights out!**

Before he leaves Soto Cano, the command sergeant major is considering making a trip to Panama, because of the region's diversity and natural habitats. Said Fisher, "Panama has a unique set of butterflies really worth getting your hands' on."

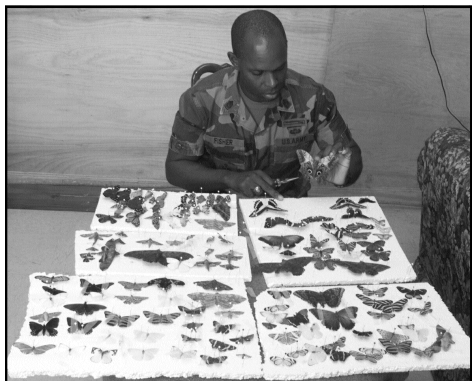
Until then, don't be surprised if you see Fisher lurking in the shadows, standing still as a statue and waiting to pounce on an unsuspecting butterfly in lust. Laugh if you will, but Fisher is the one smiling on the inside.

But his Beanie Baby collection, well, that's another story.



Photos by Master Sgt. Pat McKenna

CSM Herman Fisher reaches for a butterfly to add to his collection. Fisher has collected more than 250 butterflies and is always looking for the next one.



CSM Herman Fisher surveys his extensive collection of butterflies

BRIEFS

Smoking cessation

Preventive medicine is planning on holding a smoking cessation class. The class will consist of four hour-long sessions along with follow-up support. Troops must attend the sessions in order to get the drug support from the pharmacy. As soon as we have enough people signed up we will start the sessions. For more information contact Preventive Medicine at Ext. 4500.

Education Services Facilities Policy

The Education Services Officer has been flooded with increasing requests for usage of the eight-hootch facilities (classrooms included) daytime and nighttime for Soto Cano AB activities. Many complaints stem from the fact that some personnel are not cognizant of the fact that these classrooms, computer lab, and all facilities are for Ed Center testing, training, courses and program mandates, not open for all post requests unless there is space available after Ed Center needs. Specifically, AR 621-5 mandates college classes, CLEP testing, combat MOS/Army Learning Center programs that need classrooms, and video group sessions, which the Education Center has tables, chairs, whiteboards, etc. All units provide their own in-house facilities for whatever requirements they create. If there is a classroom available and it has priority over other needs, Education Services will usually allow usage; regular priorities that cancel out others are MWR Classes, Drivers Training Classes, and so forth. For more information, call Mo Eckles at ext. 4495.

Thanksgiving Worship

The chapel community has scheduled Thanksgiving services Nov. 23. Catholic Mass is scheduled for 9 a.m. Protestant services will be held at 11 a.m. Both services will be conducted in the base chapel. For more information, call the base chapel at ext. 4351.

Thanksgiving Meal

The Thanksgiving meal will be held Nov. 23 from 12p.m. to 2p.m. in the base dining facility. Cost is \$5.20.

Possum at Oasis Club

Department of Defense Band Possum will be bringing their brand of Modern and Roots rock to the Oasis club Nov. 28th through the 30th at 8 p.m.

Freedom Bird

For the month of December, the Freedom Bird will be arriving on Dec. 4, 11, 18, and 27. Starting in January, it will arrive on Jan 3, 8, and each Monday for the rest of the month. For more information, call Capt Allison Geis, ext 4441.

Caminata

(Continued from Page 1)

also thankful for the strong relationship between the two communities, JTF-B and the Honduran military.

"I am thankful for the kind embrace, the humanitarian assistance, the operation to recover the Honduran Air Force helicopter out of Coyolar Dam, and the search and rescue support after the recent crashes of the Honduran helicopter and aircraft along the coast here recently ... for the cooperation and good relationships between (us)," said Lopez-Carballo.

Other participants expressed their thoughts about what they felt the Caminata meant.

Maj. Marbel Castro-Roy, JTF-B director of personnel, said she felt the march spoke to a "spirit of trust and oneness, so that both countries can walk together towards peace and protection. Hopefully, our example will be a good example for others to follow."

LTC Wilfredo Calderon, from the Joint Staff "Estado Mayor Conjunto" in Tegucigalpa, said that he thought the Caminata was great. "I like to exercise, and this is also an excellent way for our two countries to come together to interact in a relaxed environment. It's a beautiful day out and

it's fun."

"I think it's a good idea to unify the militaries of both countries; the Caminata is an excellent activity to improve relations and provide a reason to bring the countries together without a formal military mission," said LTC Scott Ciluffo, 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment commander.

All the way from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Arizona, Col. Mark Graper, Commander of the 612th Air Operations Group, said it was his great pleasure to be here and to be able to participate in this event.

"The spirit and enthusiasm of the men and women of Joint Task Force-Bravo are evident as is the close working relationship between the Honduran Armed Forces and the United States (especially in an event like this)," said Graper.

"It's been an honor to participate in an event such as this," said Lt. Col Steve Mis, Air Force Forces deputy commander. "I definitely think we should do this more often. We need to continue to build relations with the leaders in Central America; it's a lynch pin to our strategy in the region."

Wood said he felt this Caminata was a great success for all who participated.

"We'll likely be hosting another one in about six to seven months from now," said Wood.



Movie Schedule

Saturday, Nov. 18 4 p.m.
Bait (R)

Saturday, Nov. 18 7:15 p.m.
Bring it On (PG-13)

Sunday, Nov. 19 4 p.m.
What Lies Beneath (PG-13)

Sunday, Nov. 19 7:15 p.m.
Hollow Man (R)

Toys for Tots drive kicks off

By Cpl. Lisa Graham
JSF

The Christmas season is nearing, time to be thankful for all the blessings that have been bestowed upon us and share the holiday joy with others. Every child deserves a special surprise on Christmas day. Unfortunately, many of the families in Honduras face overwhelming economical challenges. These obstacles prevent them from giving their children even a single gift on Christmas day.

Each year the Marine Corps conducts a Toys for Tots drive, making sure that every child can have a gift on Christmas day.

With the support of Joint Task Force-Bravo, Marines here would like to help the families of Honduras during Christmas and beyond. The smallest of gifts can brighten the day of a child. Toys and other goods have already started flowing in and back out to where they are most needed. Bacto Biblico de Santidad benefited from the donations, becoming the first church to receive donated items.

Donations of toys, canned goods, or basic hygiene items can be made at the JSF desk located at Bldg. E56. The drive will continue through Christmas until Jan. 20 so as many children as possible will be helped.

Troops grow from spiritual outing

By SPC Jeremy Heckler
Iguana Editor

Taking a trip away from all the modern conveniences and the hustle of the world around them helps troops better focus on their faith and their relationship with their higher power.

Members from Soto Cano took advantage of such an outing by attending a weekend spiritual outing at Lake Yojoa sponsored by the base chapel.

In the peace and restful atmosphere of this place, they focused on a study of the Book of Galatians, which has often been called the "Magna Carta" of Christian freedom.

"The trip helped give me a better understanding of the Book of Gala-

tians and helped to sustain my sanity," said MAJ George Christensen, one of the members of the local congregation who made the trip.

In addition to this study of the Scriptures, time was spent touring the lake and taking in a few sights, as well as time together. It was a good time to "get away" from the distractions of everyday life and change gears for a moment. The group returned to base Saturday afternoon.

"It was a great opportunity to see the Honduran countryside," said Tech. Sgt. Victor Harris. "The lake is a beautiful place to visit and the weather is great this time of year."

He added that the trip helped him build relationships with other servicemembers on Soto Cano as well as gain spiritual knowledge on the Bible.



Holiday Mailing Deadlines

Space available Mail: Nov. 27

Parcel Airlift Mail: Dec. 4

Priority Parcels: Dec. 11

First Class Letters and Cards: Dec. 11

Express Mail: Dec. 18

Mail items may be subject to customs duties. Patrons can mail items valued up to \$100, duty-free, to each family member and friend per day. Military Post Offices are an extension of the United States Parcel Service and are bound by the policies, regulations, and laws governing USPS.